

**COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
COUNTY OF MAUI**

AUGUST 24, 2017  
10:30 A.M.

Department of Finance Conference Room  
(Located on the lobby level of the County Building)  
Kalana O Maui, 200 S. High Street, Wailuku, HI 96793

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Ching-Johnson. A brief introduction was provided by all individuals present. Chair acknowledged that the meeting is being recorded for future airing on Akaku.

Members Present: Noel Ching-Johnson  
Lucy Feinberg  
Kelly Pearson  
Ciara Rodrigues  
Nancy Ooki  
Hannibal Starbuck  
Cassiopia Yamashita [arrived at 10:32 a.m.]  
Kaina Bonacorsi, ex-officio

Members Absent: Kirstin Hamman

Staff Present: Nalani Podlewski, Secretary, DHHC

Others Present: none

**II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Ching-Johnson asked if any revisions to the minutes were needed. None offered.

[Member Yamashita arrived at 10:32 a.m.]

Member Ooki introduced a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Member Starbuck.

The motion passed with Members Ching-Johnson, Feinberg, Ooki, Pearson, Rodrigues, Starbuck and Yamashita voting in favor.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Discussion on Mission and Vision Statements**

Chair Ching-Johnson opened discussion regarding the vision statement.

Member Ooki commented that she reviewed different examples, including Montgomery County and suggested that the vision statement could be more proactive. Member Rodrigues agreed that verbiage could be added to reflect action. Further discussion occurred from all members contributing comments.

Member Ooki suggested word change of “should” to “will”. Member Rodrigues commented that LBGT youth should also be acknowledged rather than use of “him/her”. Member Ooki asked if “child” should be changed to “children and youth”. Further feedback from members were received by the Chair.

Chair Ching-Johnson reviewed suggested changes as discussed amongst all members and entertained a motion.

Member Ooki presented a motion to revise the vision statement as agreed upon by all members to “All Maui County children and youth will reach adulthood having experienced a safe, healthy and nurturing childhood which prepares them to become responsible and contributing members of the community.”; seconded by Commissioner Pearson.

The motion passed with Members Ching-Johnson, Feinberg, Ooki, Pearson, Rodrigues, Starbuck and Yamashita voting in favor.

Chair Ching-Johnson opened discussion on the mission statement.

Member Bonacorsi accessed the mission statement for Montgomery County on the internet and read the following out loud:

*“The Commission on Children and Youth promotes the well-being of Montgomery County’s children, youth and families so that all young people may realize their full potential and become contributing, productive adults. The Commission advances its mission by: (1) identifying the needs of young people and their families, and the groups and agencies that serve them; (2) informing and advising the County Executive, the County Council, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Board of Education (BOE) and the community at large; (3) recommending policies, programs, funding and legislative priorities; and (4) affirming the needs, aspirations and achievements of all the County’s young people.”*

Discussion occurred with members providing suggestions to revise the mission statement using Montgomery County as an example. Key points of the discussion were focused on the role of the Commission to recommend policies, programs, funding and legislative priorities.

[Member Feinberg left room at 11:32 a.m. and returned at 11:34 a.m.]

[Member Starbuck left the room at 11:35 a.m. and returned at 11:37 a.m.]

Chair Ching-Johnson asked Member Bonacorsi if she had a background history of the Commission. Ms. Bonacorsi explained that to her knowledge the Commission started

with early childhood practitioners who utilized the body for advocacy and networking for programs for children newborn to kindergarten, and then it deviated and expanded to include all children.

After further discussion, members agreed to the proposed mission statement as:

*The Commission on Children and Youth promotes the well-being of Maui County children, youth and families so our children and youth can achieve their full potential as contributing citizens of our community.*

*The Commission advances its mission by: (1) identifying the needs of young people and their families, and the groups and agencies that serve them; (2) informing and advising the Maui County Mayor, the County Council, and the community at large; (3) making recommendations on policies, programs, legislative priorities and on requested matters related to children and youth proposed for adoption by the County Council; (4) affirming the needs, aspirations and achievements of all of the children, youth and families of Maui County.*

Chair Ching-Johnson requested a motion to have Corporation Council review the revisions as discussed and agreed up by all Members present.

Member Pearson presented a motion to have Corporation Counsel review the proposed revisions to the vision and mission statements, and for placement on next agenda for additional review and approval by the Commission; seconded by Member Yamashita.

The motion passed with Members Ching-Johnson, Feinberg, Ooki, Pearson, Rodrigues, Starbuck and Yamashita voting in favor.

Chair Ching-Johnson excused Member Feinberg and called recess at 11:55 a.m.

[RECESS]

Chair reconvened the meeting at 11:58 a.m. with Members Bonacorsi, Ching-Johnson, Ooki, Pearson, Rodrigues, Starbuck and Yamashita present.

## **B. Discussion on responses from Departments to letter requesting information on existing services and programs**

Chair Ching-Johnson opened discussion about the letter that was sent. He suggested that they first review the results of the informal poll to the members about future meeting dates and frequency. Ms. Podlewski recommended that he discuss the results under Item V in the agenda and Chair agreed.

Chair resumed discussion on letters that were sent to Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Housing and Human Concerns and Office on Economic Development and advised that a form response was received from Transportation Director Medeiros. Ms. Podlewski clarified that she created the form as recommended by Deputy Corporation Counsel Sheppard to keep the information received from various sources consistent.

Member Bonacorsi briefly provided a recap of the last meeting at which they decided that the letter should be sent to identify the services and programs that exist in Maui County. She added that perhaps they asked prematurely since now an updated mission

has been drafted. She further commented that this was their first attempt to gather information and they may wish to review how to proceed.

Member Bonacorsi then passed out different resource materials that she brought to the meeting to generate conversation. She acknowledged that each member has their own knowledge base and access to a variety of resources that the Commission could analyze.

Chair Ching-Johnson agreed with Member Bonacorsi that the letter may have been sent prematurely, then read the body of the letter out loud:

*"After many years of inactivity, the Commission on Children and Youth convened a meeting on June 29th with renewed focus. We are resolved to establish a commission that has purpose and usefulness to the County of Maui and to our community.*

*To accomplish this, the Commission would like to first identify existing services and programs that benefit our children and youth. In order to create an inventory, we kindly request any information on current services and/or programs that your department offers or may know of.*

*Enclosed is a form which outlines the information we are requesting. However if your department has the requested information in a different form (i.e. spreadsheet/report), we will gladly accept those as well. Please submit any information for the Commission to Nalani..."*

Chair Ching-Johnson then acknowledged that the Department of Housing and Human Concerns provided a spreadsheet that listed agencies and programs that currently receive grant funding.

Member Bonacorsi suggested that they review the actual goals and objectives of the County, Mayor and the Departments that are available online to identify areas that impact children and youth. She noted that Maui County does not have a current comprehensive community profile. Ms. Bonacorsi shared that she could commit to printing the goals and objectives or getting links for the County and have it available for next meeting.

Member Pearson commented that she thinks this is a good starting point and suggested they come up with a few steps that each member could assist with between meetings.

Member Bonacorsi stated that there are current efforts on a directory at the statewide level but the neighbor islands do not contribute to it. She also mentioned other resources such as 808Youth by the Office on Youth Services and 211 by Aloha United Way.

Member Starbuck asked if they are we still waiting for responses. Chair answered that they do not necessarily need to wait, if there may be anything specific that was not provided, they could ask another way.

Chair Ching-Johnson expressed that he likes the idea to update the list of services for Maui County and maybe they could team up with the State's efforts.

Member Ooki asked if they would need to do research on their own. Ms. Podlewski replied that information could be sent to her and she would distribute as needed. She added that if they wished to create working groups, they would need to identify what their jobs are and appoint members as previously mentioned by Corporation Counsel.

Chair suggested that they individually provide input on their suggestions and thoughts, and identify any groups that need help, for example homeless children or transgender. He added that by updating the County website, the community could refer to current information.

Member Ooki recapped the discussion next steps – members would 1) find what resources, partnerships, collaborations that may exist and email the list of resources to Ms. Podlewski to compile; 2) review goals and objectives of Mayor, County Council, and the Departments; 3) identify specific groups or areas of interest that they would like to focus on.

Member Bonacorsi added that they could also provide feedback on what they find or do not find and bring the findings to the next meeting and they could decide if an investigative group may be needed.

Member Starbuck commented that the minutes from today's meeting would not be available until next meeting and asked if the information could be provided earlier so they could have a summary. Member Bonacorsi added that Ms. Podlewski provided a reminder email after the last meeting. Ms. Podlewski responded that would send out an email reminder outlining the next steps discussed today.

Member Pearson asked what may be the way to share information at the meeting so that they do not duplicate efforts. Ms. Podlewski responded that she could compile information provided prior to the meeting.

Chair closed discussion on the item and moved to next agenda item.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS**

All members present agreed that the next meeting should be tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2017 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; alternate date would be Monday, October 23, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ching-Johnson entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion moved by Member Pearson, seconded by Member Rodrigues. The motion passed with Members Ching-Johnson, Ooki, Pearson, Rodrigues, Starbuck and Yamashita voting in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m. by Chair Ching-Johnson.